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Appropriations Committee  
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

To the members of the Appropriations Committee:

I'm writing to express my concern about cuts to and the possible elimination of the Connecticard and Connecticar programs that form the backbone of the Connecticut library system's interlibrary loan program.

This program is incredibly valuable to the many, many people who use and support our state's wonderful library system. Over 300,000 people in the state collectively took out close to five million items through this program last year, items to which they might not otherwise have had access.

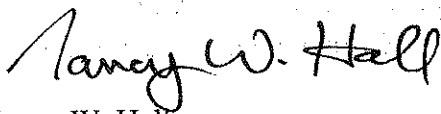
As for myself, I could not do my job as freelance health writer without making frequent use of these programs. I am at the library here in Madison several times a week checking out and returning items obtained from other towns that make my job simpler and my life richer.

The point of this irreplaceable program isn't simply a matter of checking out a book versus purchasing it. Many of the books in the system are simply no longer available in bookstores. That said, it's also true that this system saves money—I have personally saved hundreds of dollars a year for many years through the use of interlibrary loan.

At a time when individuals and families in Connecticut are facing tight budgets, high gas prices, and the need to respond to a volatile employment market requiring us to stay sharp and well educated, it seems ill-advised to deprive important programs like these of support.

Please do not cut budgetary support for interlibrary loan programs in Connecticut.

Thank you,

  
Nancy W. Hall